

Together for Quality

Stakeholder Council Visioning Session Overview, March 8-9, 2007

On March 8th and 9th, 2007, the Alabama Medicaid Agency held a two-day Together for Quality Visioning Session as a follow-up to February's Stakeholder Council Orientation Session. Interest in the project remained readily evident as more than 100 members of Alabama's health care community attended the two-day event. The previously-established workgroups remained in place, with leadership, milestones, and charters being further finalized for each group.

The agenda for the two-day session followed a time-tested course laid out by the eHealth Initiative team, especially the Vanderbilt Center for Better Health, who also served in a facilitation capacity. Initially, the workgroups gathered to select co-chairs for the duration of the project and address the most immediate issues such as identifying target disease states and criteria for selection of a partnering HHS entity. Next, an individual exercise had participants thinking ahead to the successful completion of the *TFQ* project and pondering such things as what steps would need to be taken by the overall stakeholder council to reach that point. The final item of business on the first day was reconvening the workgroups to finalize their charters. These charters were intended to contain their mission, scope & boundaries, key milestones and timeline, along with any non-standard workgroup operating rules.

The second day led off with an exercise in identifying common workgroup items. Each workgroup met and devised a set of questions, relevant to their own scope, to be asked of each of the other workgroups. These questions were then relayed to the appropriate workgroup, who then debated whether the issue pertained to their group and, if so, when and how they would be able to address it. These results were then reported back to the entire stakeholder council. In the afternoon, the workgroups made final decisions as to what they felt they could feasibly achieve in the timeframe allotted by *TFQ* and the schedules they will use to address these issues and supply relevant deliverables. The session came to a spirited end as voting was conducted on stakeholder-submitted nominations for what *TFQ*'s electronic clinical support tool would be named. The two top choices were C.A.R.E. Link (**C**onnecting **A**labama's **R**egional **H**ealthcare **E**xchange) and ALPHIE (**A**labama **P**atient **H**ealth **I**nformation **E**xchange).

During this 2 day session, many issues were resolved and plans were made for the future. Details around next steps were appropriately raised throughout the course of the Visioning Session. Charters and timelines were agreed upon, and further work will be undertaken around governance and other items. Much was accomplished; however, all workgroups still have many items to address during the next few months.

Attendees agreed to schedule monthly meeting for the 1st Wednesday of each month in the early afternoon, with workgroups meeting as needed. The notice of meetings and materials are emailed and posted on the website.